

CLAIMS

1. A method of processing scientific posters over a global network, the method comprising:
 - (a) enabling a user to input user-selected design parameters for a scientific poster;
 - (b) generating a sample poster according to the user-selected design parameters and confirming the user-selected design parameters;
 - (c) uploading user-input substantive data;
 - (d) building an image of the scientific poster according to the user-selected design parameters and the user-input substantive data; and
 - (e) delivering the scientific poster according to a desired delivery process.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) is practiced by enabling the user to input user-selected design parameters including at least one of poster size, orientation, figure placement, resolution, paper type, and colors.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein step (a) is practiced by enabling the user to select a poster size from a plurality of predetermined poster sizes or enabling the user to input a custom poster size.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) is practiced by providing access to a poster gallery including a plurality of poster samples and enabling the user to input poster design parameters by selecting one of the poster samples.
5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising, between steps (d) and (e), the step of providing the image of the scientific poster to the user for review and effecting any necessary edits according to the user's review.
6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising storing the user-input substantive data in a dedicated vault and providing user-only access to the user's dedicated vault.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein step (d) is practiced by linking designated files from the user's dedicated vault.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein when one or more of the designated files is modified, step (d) comprises updating the scientific poster image according to the modified files.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (e) is practiced by printing the scientific poster image and shipping the printed image to the user.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (e) is practiced by posting the scientific poster image on an internet web page.

11. A method according to claim 10, further comprising enabling password or ID access to the internet web page.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein step (e) is practiced by incorporating hyperlinks in the web page that lead to supplementary information.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) is practiced by enabling the user to input drill-down components of the scientific poster, wherein step (c) is practiced by uploading drill-down component data from the user, and wherein step (d) is practiced by incorporating the drill-down components into the scientific poster image and enabling access to the drill-down components through the image.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein step (a) is practiced by enabling the user to input dynamic components of the scientific poster, wherein step (c) is practiced by uploading dynamic component data from the user, and wherein step (d) is practiced by incorporating the dynamic components into the scientific poster image and enabling access to the dynamic components through the image.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) is practiced by enabling the user to input dynamic components of the scientific poster, wherein step (c) is practiced by uploading dynamic component data from the user, and wherein step (d) is practiced by incorporating the dynamic components into the scientific poster image and enabling access to the dynamic components through the image.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the dynamic components comprise audio, visual or audio/visual recordings relating to a subject of the scientific poster.

17. A method according to claim 1, further comprising storing data for processing the scientific poster according to searchable database categories.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the searchable database categories comprise at least one of author, subject matter, conference, and date.

19. A method according to claim 1, further comprising, after step (d), the step of editing the scientific poster image according to user instructions.

20. A method according to claim 19, further comprising enabling selective access by a plurality of users to the scientific poster image in a collaborative virtual laboratory, wherein the editing step is performed according to an instruction from any of the plurality of users with selective access.

21. A method of processing scientific posters over a global network, the method comprising:

(a) enabling users to create scientific posters according to user-selected design parameters and user-input substantive data;

(b) producing the scientific posters according to user-selected production methods;

(c) archiving the scientific posters and cross-referencing related scientific posters; and

(d) enabling access to the scientific posters via the global network.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein step (c) is practiced by storing data for processing the scientific posters according to searchable database categories.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the searchable database categories comprise at least one of author, subject matter, conference, and date.

24. A method according to claim 21, further comprising, after step (b), the step of (e) delivering the scientific posters according to a desired delivery process.

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein step (e) is practiced by posting the scientific posters on an internet web page.

26. A method according to claim 25, further comprising enabling password or ID access to the internet web page.

27. A method according to claim 25, wherein step (e) is practiced by incorporating hyperlinks in the web page that lead to supplementary information.

28. A computer system for processing scientific posters, the computer system comprising:

at least one user computer running a computer program that effects input information relating to user-selected design parameters for a scientific poster and substantive data for the scientific poster; and

a system server running a server program, the at least one user computer and the system server being interconnected by a computer network, the system server receiving the input information and building an image of the scientific poster according to the user-selected design parameters and the user-input substantive data, the server delivering the scientific poster according to a desired delivery process.

29. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for processing scientific posters over a global network, the computer program comprising:

means for enabling a user to input user-selected design parameters for a scientific poster;

means for generating a sample poster according to the user-selected design parameters and confirming the user-selected design parameters;

means for uploading user-input substantive data;

means for building an image of the scientific poster according to the user-selected design parameters and the user-input substantive data; and

means for delivering the scientific poster according to a desired delivery process.